

Application No. 09/902,016
Art Unit: 3627

REMARKS

This amendment is responsive to the Office Action mailed 18 November 2003. Following entry of this amendment, claims 1-32 are pending application on the merits. Herein, Applicants amend claims 2, 4, and 5 and submit a Terminal Disclaimer (and fee) overcoming the provisional obviousness-type double patenting of claims 17-20, 25, 26, and 30-32 over co-pending application serial number 09/775,281 as well claims 1-3, 5-21, 23-26 and 30-32 over co-pending application serial number 09/775,262.

Entry and favorable consideration of the amendments and remarks contained herein is earnestly solicited so that the claimed invention may proceed to timely issuance as U.S. Letters Patent.

Objections

The Examiner objected to the informal drawings and to claim 2.

Applicants have obtained formal drawings and will submit them very soon for inspection and entry by the Official Draftsperson.

Applicants herein amend claim 2 to address the inadvertent typographical error (i.e., insert "and" in lieu of "an").

Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 4 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Herewith Applicants amend claims 4 and 5 to more expressly invoke the statutory so-called "means-plus-function clause" (pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 112, paragraph 6).

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CONCLUSION

Applicant avers that the amendments tendered herewith (including the Terminal Disclaimer) are not narrowing amendments and thus are free of any presumption regarding the range of equivalents to which Applicant's invention should be entitled to.

Applicant respectfully suggests that all pending claims 1-32 in this application are now in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and prompt allowance of all pending claims. Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to deposit account number 13-2546.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the below-signed attorney to discuss this application.

Respectfully submitted,

Date

18 Feb. 04

Paul H. McDowall
Paul H. McDowall
Reg. No. 34,873
(763) 514-3351
Customer No. 27581